E/2005/42
E/CN.18/2005/18

United Nations

# United Nations Forum on Forests

## Report of the fifth session (14 May 2004 and 16 to 27 May 2005)

**Economic and Social Council**
**Official Records, 2005**
**Supplement No. 22**

**Economic and Social Council**
Official Records, 2005
Supplement No. 22

# United Nations Forum on Forests

## Report of the fifth session (14 May 2004 and 16 to 27 May 2005)

United Nations • New York, 2005

*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

ISSN 1728-0095

# Contents


| *Chapter* | | *Page* |
|---|---|---|
| I. | Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention | 1 |
| | A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council | 1 |
| | Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fifth session and provisional agenda for its sixth session | 1 |
| | B. Decisions of the Forum brought to the attention of the Council | 2 |
| | Decision 5/1<br>Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations | 2 |
| | Decision 5/2<br>Review process of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests | 2 |
| II. | Status of the Forum secretariat | 11 |
| III. | Review of progress and consideration of future actions | 12 |
| IV. | Review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, as referred to in paragraph 17 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 | 13 |
| V. | On the basis of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, consideration, with a view to recommending them to the Council and through it to the General Assembly, of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests | 14 |
| VI. | Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination | 15 |
| VII. | Multi-stakeholder dialogue | 17 |
| VIII. | High-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations | 18 |
| IX. | Other matters | 22 |
| X. | Organization of the session | 23 |
| | A. Opening and duration of the session | 23 |
| | B. Attendance | 23 |
| | C. Election of officers | 23 |
| | D. Adoption of the agenda | 23 |
| | E. Documentation | 24 |
| | F. Establishment of working groups and designation of their chairmen | 24 |
| | G. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations | 24 |
| | H. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fifth session | 25 |

Annexes


I. Regional realities: Asia-Pacific Day: summary submitted by the Chairman of the Forum ..... 26

II. Role of forests in the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit and integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields ..... 27

III. Round table 1: Restoring the world's forests: summary submitted by the Chairman of the Forum ..... 29

IV. Forest law and governance for sustainability: summary submitted by the Chairman of the Forum ..... 31

V. List of documents ..... 32

# Chapter I

# Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

## A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

**Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fifth session and provisional agenda for its sixth session**

*The Economic and Social Council*,

*Recalling* its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fifth session;[1]

2. *Acknowledges* in particular the need to consider forest issues for the preparation of the input of the Economic and Social Council to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly;

3. *Notes* that the Forum will continue its examination of its methods of work, as per General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, through the implementation of decision 5/2 of the fifth session of the Forum;

4. *Decides* to hold the sixth session of the Forum from 13 to 24 February 2006 in New York;

5. *Also decides* that the Forum, at its sixth session, should consider on the venue and dates of its seventh session;

6. *Further decides* that the Forum, at its sixth session, should ensure the opportunity to receive and consider inputs from representatives of major groups as identified in Agenda 21, and in this regard that the Bureau should provide the opportunity for the major groups as a priority to hold side events during the sixth session of the Forum to permit them to present their points of view on the issues to be addressed during the session;

7. *Approves* the provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Forum as set out below;

**Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of decision 5/2 of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.
4. Date and venue for the seventh session of the Forum.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 22* (E/2005/42).

5. Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Forum.

6. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its sixth session.

8. *Calls upon* interested donors to make voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund of the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to facilitate, in particular, travel of representatives from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, taking into account General Assembly decision 58/554 of 23 December 2003.

## B. Decisions of the Forum brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Forum are brought to the attention of the Council:

**Decision 5/1**
**Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations**

The United Nations Forum on Forests decided to accredit the following two intergovernmental organizations: the Montreal Process and the secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

**Decision 5/2**
**Review process of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

The United Nations Forum on Forests, recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000 and the Forum's multi-year programme of work adopted in its resolution 1/1, in particular section A, subparagraphs 4 (d) (i), (ii) and (iii),

Decides to complete the consideration at its sixth session of the above items outlined in its multi-year programme of work, based on the bracketed draft text developed in informal consultations during its fifth session, as contained in the annex to the present decision.

**Annex**

**Chairman's draft text***

[*The Economic and Social Council*,

*Recalling and reaffirming* its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000,

*Also recalling* General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to all the principles of the Rio Declaration, including those relating to the sovereign right of countries to use their own resources according to their policies on environment and development and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries; the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests and chapter 11 of Agenda 21 agreed to at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; relevant multilateral environmental agreements; the

* As presented on Thursday, 26 May 2005, at 8 p.m.

Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action; the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus,

*Recognizing* that forests are important to the social and economic well-being of present and future generations, as well as to the environment,

*Expressing concern* about continued deforestation and forest degradation and the resulting adverse impact on the economy, the livelihoods of at least a billion people, and the environment, and about the need for more effective implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels to address these critical challenges,

*Recognizing* the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries,

*Emphasizing its concern* about the need for adequate financing, capacity-building, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and good governance at all levels for effective implementation of sustainable forest management, in particular concerning the least developed countries and countries emerging from conflict,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen the international arrangement on forests to assure effective implementation of internationally agreed actions on sustainable forest management at all levels,

*Re-emphasizing* the importance of the United Nations Forum on Forests as the high-level intergovernmental body on forests within the United Nations and the continued supporting role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the need for the Forum to provide the Partnership with clear guidance,

*Recognizing the need to strengthen* the regional approach to establish linkages between the global high-level policy forum and implementation at regional, subregional and national levels,

1. *Decides* to strengthen the international arrangement on forests, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions, by the following:

2. *Agrees* that in addition to the main objective and the principal functions set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the international arrangement on forests should:

(a) Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(b) Maintain global forest resources and forest quality for the long-term economic, social and environmental well-being of all, and in particular those that depend directly on forests, including local and indigenous communities;

*[Global Goals]/**[Global] Strategic Objectives***

3. **[With a view to the achievement of [the overall Millennium Development Goals,] / [internationally agreed development goals, including those included in the Millennium Declaration]]** [*Also agrees* **[that all possible efforts should be made] [[no later than 2020]/[by 2015]]** to **achieve [no later than 2020]/[by 2015]** the following shared **global** goals on forests/**[.]**

**[Demonstrable progress for the achievement of these goals should be made by 2015.] / [no later than 2020]/[by 2015] [upon]/[on] [which] [and make] demonstrable progress [to that end] [should be made]** by **[2011]/[2015]]**;

*Goal 1*

[Agreed-ad ref] Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

*Goal 2*

[Agreed-ad ref] Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits and the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

*Goal 3*

[Agreed-ad ref] Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and the area of sustainably managed forests and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

*Goal 4*

[Agreed-ad ref] Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

4. [Agreed-ad ref] *Further agrees* that countries, taking into account national sovereignty, practices and conditions, should make all efforts to contribute to the above global goals through the development or indication of voluntary national measures, policies, actions or specific goals;

4bis. [Agreed-ad ref] *Encourages* countries, on a voluntary basis, to submit periodically national reports to the Forum, beginning in 2007, on progress in their efforts made to contribute to the global goals in the present resolution, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management;

**Means of implementation**

5. *Urges* countries to make concerted efforts to secure high-level political commitment and support to improve the means of implementation, especially in relation to finance, capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies (in particular to support developing countries), in order to achieve sustainable forest management, taking into account economic, social and environmental priorities and specificities at the country, subregional, and regional levels, by:

(a) Reversing the decline in global official development assistance for forest-related activities and calling for the fulfilment of commitments to official development assistance;

(b) Urging donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to achieve the objectives of the international arrangement on forests;

(c) Mobilizing and providing significant new and additional financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management to and in developing countries;

(d) Making sustainable forest management a higher priority, inter alia, through integrating the National Forest Programme or other national forest strategies into national planning strategies, including poverty reduction strategies where they exist;

(e) Supporting partnerships to mobilize financial resources for sustainable forest management;

(f) Fostering access where appropriate by households and communities to forest resources and markets;

(g) Creating a global forest fund through new and additional financial resources on a voluntary basis;

*or*

(g) alt Creating a global forest fund as part of the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund

*or*

(g) alt2 Inviting the governing body of the National Forest Programme facility hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to establish a fund to support national actions to implement sustainable forest management;

(g) alt2 bis Also inviting the governing body of the Programme of Forests hosted by the World Bank to establish a fund to facilitate collaborative work among members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests at global and regional levels;

(g) alt2 ter Urging countries to contribute to the National Forest Programme facility and the Programme of Forests for these specific purposes as mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;

(h) Inviting the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its twenty-fifth session to consider the establishment of a new operational programme on forests with sufficient additional funds to be allocated by the current replenishment negotiations without prejudice to other operational programmes;

*or*

(h) alt Inviting the Council of the Global Environment Facility to explore ways to give greater consideration to sustainable forest management within the relevant operational programmes of the Global Environment Facility, including by utilizing the full range of forest-related international organizations, such as the Food

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Tropical Timber Organization, as implementing and executing agencies, where appropriate;

(i) *Inviting* the international and regional financial and development institutions to channel additional resources to developing countries to finance sustainable forest management;

(j) *Promoting* international cooperation including South-South and triangular cooperation;

(k) *Creating* an effective enabling environment for private sector investment for sustainable forest management;

(l) *Creating* an enabling environment for the involvement of and investment by local communities and forest users in sustainable forest management;

(m) *Further developing* at the national, regional, interregional and international level innovative financial mechanisms for generating revenue;

(n) *Supporting* the diversification of sources of income of people living in and around forest areas;

6. *Urges* countries to make concerted efforts to secure high-level political commitment and support to improve the means of implementation, especially in relation to finance, capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, considering a holistic approach to local and traditional technologies, in order to achieve sustainable forest management, by:

(a) Providing greater support to scientific and technological innovations for sustainable forest management, including those relating to the improvement in sustainable forest management by local communities;

(b) Enhancing the capacity of countries to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed sources;

(c) Integrating national forest programmes into national strategies for sustainable development, national action plans under multilateral environmental agreements and, where appropriate, into poverty reduction strategies;

(d) Promoting international cooperation (including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation);

(e) Promoting a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries to better address the problems of forest degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;

(f) Making effective use of existing resources, including promotion of synergistic effects through mobilization and coordination of bilateral, multilateral and unilateral resources;

(g) Establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships and programmes with all major groups to pursue sustainable forest management objectives as well as to enhance the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(h) Promoting the active participation of indigenous peoples, women and other forest-dependent groups in the development and implementation of policies and programmes that affect them;

(i) Promoting the effective protection and use of traditional knowledge and best practices in sustainable forest management;

(j) Promoting improved forest practices through strengthening sustainable forest management standards;

(k) Enforcing forest legislation and promoting law enforcement and governance;

**Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral, policy and programme coordination**

7. *Decides* to:

(a) Facilitate improved implementation through clustering and simplifying the language of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action as well as by promoting greater understanding of the intent of these proposals by countries and all stakeholders;

(b) Promote research and development of forests by means of a network of established institutes of excellence in all regions of the world, especially in developing countries;

(c) Establish a clearing-house mechanism to facilitate a better exchange of experiences and good practices and to facilitate the access by developing countries to better technology for sustainable forest management and an increase of in situ added value for forest products;

(d) Enhance United Nations system-wide coordination and promote the forest agenda of the United Nations in an integrated and coordinated manner, setting it within the overall United Nations agenda;

8. *Invites* the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, instruments, processes and United Nations bodies to improve collaboration through the international arrangement on forests as the key intergovernmental mechanism to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels;

**Working modalities**

9. *Decides* that [the Forum], [as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council], shall operate on the basis of a multi-year programme of work **to be adopted at its first meeting at the global level in 2007** [to be established during the first session] **[in the context of the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management and international cooperation and trade, ... global goals ...]**, with two-year cycles for the period 200[6]**8**-[2015], with the Forum meeting [annually/ every two years **at the global level**];

10. *Agrees* that the Forum shall hold regional sessions every alternate year to **address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work, including through** assessing implementation and progress at the [[global/] regional level] and providing guidance for further action;

11. *Decides* that these sessions shall be organized in cooperation with the **United Nations regional commissions as well as** existing regional processes, **including those within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and others** [such as the United Nations regional economic and social commissions and the regional forestry commissions, of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations] to ensure complementarity and [non-] **avoid** duplication **and that the outcomes of the regional sessions be reported to the global meetings of the Forum and, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council**;

**11alt. *Requests* the Forum to organize, with the support of the five United Nations regional economic and social commissions, [to host] / [organize] within the policy framework and overall coordination of the Forum, in consultation with the Forum secretariat, regional meetings of the Forum every two years, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, through its regional forestry commissions, and relevant regional and subregional organizations and processes to actively participate in, support and, where feasible, co-host these meetings, which should:**

**(a) Address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work, in particular through the exchange of information and experiences;**

**(b) Report to meetings of the Forum at the global level and to the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate;**

**(c) Be open to members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major groups;**

**(d) Involve other relevant subregional, regional and international organizations and processes;**

**(e) Be supported by the Forum secretariat;**

**(f) Be financed through the United Nations regular budget by the reallocation of funds saved by reducing the frequency and duration of global meetings of the Forum;**

**(g) Be complimentary to and avoid duplication of existing processes;**

**These regional meetings should take advantage of existing regional meetings and processes to avoid duplication and fragmentation;**

**11bis. *Decides* that until the regional sessions are designed and fully established, the Forum will continue meeting annually from 2006-2008 and that at its 2008 session, it will decide whether to adopt the two-year cycle;**

12. *Decides* that the Forum should continue to support the full and effective participation of developing countries;

13. *Also decides* that the Forum, with the support of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, will further develop and harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, framed by the thematic elements for sustainable forest management, through processes that are perceived as worthwhile and relevant to the needs of countries, and invites countries to provide input for these processes;

14. *Further decides* that the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests should be reviewed again in 2015;

15. *Decides* to strengthen the secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfil its function;

16. [*Trust funds*]

17. *Decides* that the Forum will continue to provide clear guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

18. *Urges* Member States to send consistent messages to governing bodies of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests so that the Partnership:

(a) Has a mandate to develop joint action plans;

(b) Coordinates the work of its members in line with political recommendations of the Forum in order to more effectively promote sustainable forest management;

(c) Prepares a consistent work programme, including deliverables and a budget that supports the implementation of the Forum's multi-year programme of work;

19. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to engage in a more proactive process by:

(a) Increasing the transparency of its operations by involving major groups in planning and implementation of its activities, including through partnerships;

(b) Strengthening its contribution to activities at the regional level;

(c) Providing analysis of global trends, gaps and policy implications drawn from the reports given by countries to the member organizations of the Partnership;

20. *Also invites* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to strengthen the Tehran process in developing and implementing strategies on conservation and rehabilitation of forests in low forest cover countries;

21. [*Collaborative Partnership on Forests funding/seed fund*]

**Legal framework**

22. *Recognizes* that the option of the legally binding instrument on all types of forests could be considered among other possibilities in the future review of the international arrangement on forests in 2015;

**Voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding**

23. *Decides* that, by 2007, the Forum will develop a voluntary code/ guidelines/international understanding on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest according to the terms of reference set out in the appendix to the present resolution;

**Declaration and message**

24. *Also decides* to submit the Ministerial Declaration of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly on the crucial contributions that forests can make to the realization of internationally agreed development goals, including those

contained in the Millennium Declaration, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/44 of 22 July 2004;

25. *Further decides* that without prejudice to the status of and the principles established by Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the present resolution will supplement it. ]

**[Appendix**

**Terms of reference for developing a voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest**

Purpose: The purpose is to articulate international forest related agreements on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of sustainable forest management and to help achieve the goals decided upon at the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Process: The process of developing the voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding will be integrated into the future multi-year programme of work of the Forum.

Possible topics to be included: Title and purpose; reaffirmation of existing agreements; relationships with other international instruments; cooperation; implementation; monitoring and reporting; provision for review.]

# Chapter II
## Status of the Forum secretariat

1. The Forum considered agenda item 3, "Status of the Forum secretariat" jointly with agenda item 7, "Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination", at its 2nd meeting, on 16 May 2005.

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 May, the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests made a statement.

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Jamaica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries, Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Turkey and Croatia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, which aligned themselves with the statement), the United States of America, the Russian Federation, New Zealand, Guatemala, Mexico, Switzerland, Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)) , Australia and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

# Chapter III
## Review of progress and consideration of future actions

1. The Forum considered agenda item 4, "Review of progress and consideration of future actions", jointly with agenda items 5 and 6, at its 3rd meeting, on 16 May 2005, and jointly with agenda items 5, 6 and 7, at its 4th, 5th and 12th meetings on 17 and 27 May 2005. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the review of progress and consideration of future actions (E/CN.18/2005/8).

2. At the 3rd meeting, on 16 May, the Director of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests made an introductory statement.

3. Also at the same meeting, the Co-Chairmen of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters for a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on All Types of Forests made presentations.

4. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Turkey and Croatia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, which aligned themselves with the statement), the United States of America, Canada, Norway, Cuba, Switzerland, New Zealand, Australia, the Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, the Russian Federation and Nigeria.

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization and the Montreal Process.

6. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Global Youth Action Network (on behalf of six major groups) and the Tebtebba Foundation (on behalf of the indigenous peoples major group).

# Chapter IV

## Review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, as referred to in paragraph 17 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35

The Forum considered agenda item 5, "Review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, as referred to in paragraph 17 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35", jointly with agenda items 4 and 6 at its 3rd meeting, on 16 May, and jointly with agenda items 4, 6 and 7 at its 4th, 5th and 12th meetings, on 17 and 27 May 2005. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests (E/CN.18/2005/6).

# Chapter V

## On the basis of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, consideration, with a view to recommending them to the Council and through it to the General Assembly, of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests

The Forum considered agenda item 6, "On the basis of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, consideration, with a view to recommending them to the Council and through it to the General Assembly, of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests" jointly with agenda items 4 and 6 at its 3rd meeting, on 16 May, and jointly with agenda items 4, 5 and 7 at its 4th, 5th and 12th meetings, on 17 and 27 May 2005. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on All Types of Forests (E/CN.18/2005/2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on consideration of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, with a view to recommending them to the Economic and Social Council and through it to the General Assembly (E/CN.18/2005/9).

# Chapter VI
# Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

1. The Forum considered agenda item 7, "Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination", jointly with agenda item 3 at its 2nd meeting, on 16 May 2005, and jointly with items 4, 5 and 6 at its 4th, 5th and 12th meetings, on 17 and 27 May 2005. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2005/5);

(b) Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework (E/CN.18/2005/INF/1).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 May, the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests made a statement.

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Jamaica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries, Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Turkey and Croatia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, which aligned themselves with the statement), the United States of America, the Russian Federation, New Zealand, Guatemala, Mexico, Switzerland, Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)), Australia and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Panel discussion on "Regional realities: Asia-Pacific Day"

5. At its 6th meeting, on 18 May 2005, the Forum held a panel discussion on "Regional realities: Asia-Pacific Day". Neria Andin, Assistant Director, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Forest Management Bureau (Philippines), acted as moderator of the discussion.

6. The Assistant Secretary-General on Economic Development opened the discussion and made a statement.

7. Presentations were made by David Kaimowitz, Director General, Center for International Forestry Research; Hiro Miyazono, Deputy Director, International Forestry Cooperation (Japan); Freezailah bin Che Yeom (Malaysia); Gopa Pandey, Conservator of Forest, Research and Extension, Forest Department (India), and Kanchan Lama, Society for Partners in Development (Nepal).

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, Indonesia, Croatia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Luxembourg, Guatemala, the United States of America and Nepal.

## Action taken by the Forum

9. At the 12th meeting, on 27 May, the Forum had before it the summary of the panel discussion submitted by the Chairman, which was contained in an informal paper.

10. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to annex the summary of the discussion to the report of the Forum (see annex I).

# Chapter VII
## Multi-stakeholder dialogue

1. At the fifth session of the Forum, based on consultations with major groups about the planning of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, the Bureau decided that agenda item 8, "Multi-stakeholder dialogue", would be integrated into the plenary discussions of all agenda items, including the high-level segment.

2. The Forum had before it a note by the Secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2005/3 and Add.1-8), transmitting the discussion papers submitted by the various major groups.

3. At the 5th meeting, on 17 May, the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests made an introductory statement.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union; the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Turkey and Croatia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, which aligned themselves with the statement), the Islamic Republic of Iran, Switzerland, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago and Norway.

5. At the 7th meeting, on 25 May, the representative of Cuba raised a point of order concerning the format for the participation of the major groups in the high-level segment and proposed a revised format, whereby major groups would be invited to make their statements after governmental delegations instead of integrating the statements throughout the high-level segment.

6. A statement in support of the original format was made by the representative of Luxembourg.

7. Statements in support of the proposal of Cuba were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and Colombia.

8. The Chairman then ruled that the format would remain as originally formulated.

9. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and Brazil.

10. The Secretary responded to a question posed by the representative of Brazil.

11. Following a statement by the representative of Cuba, the Forum decided to revise the format of the high-level segment.

# Chapter VIII
# High-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations

1. The high-level ministerial segment of the Forum was held on 25 and 26 May 2005 (7th to 10th meetings of the Forum). The Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the high-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations (E/CN.18/2005/4);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on linkages between forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (E/CN.18/2005/7);

(c) Letter dated 15 October 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the workshop co-organized by the Governments of Indonesia and Switzerland on "Decentralization, federal systems in forestry and national forest programmes" (the Interlaken workshop) (E/CN.18/2005/10);

(d) Letter dated 24 February 2005 from the Chargés d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Missions of Mexico and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Co-Chairs' report on the country-led "Initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the Future of the International Arrangements on Forests" (the Guadalajara report) (E/CN.18/2005/11);

(e) Note verbale dated 21 April 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the country-led "Initiative on innovative financial mechanisms: searching for viable alternatives to secure the basis for the financial sustainability of forests" (E/CN.18/2005/13);

(f) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the statement from the Ministerial Meeting on Forests convened by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 14 March 2005 in Rome (E/CN.18/2005/14);

(g) Letter dated 2 May 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the country-led "Initiative in Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation" (E/CN.18/2005/15);

(h) Note verbale dated 20 April 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments (E/CN.18/2005/16).

2. At the 7th meeting, on 25 May, the Chairman opened the high-level segment, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development addressed the Forum.

3. At the same meeting, the Moderator, Buyelwa Patience Sonjica, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry of South Africa, made a statement.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the high-level representatives of Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union and others), Austria, Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)), Ireland, Malaysia, Angola, Switzerland, Morocco, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, France and Kenya.

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of: World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF); International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); World Bank; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO); and Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

6. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following major groups: business and industry; scientific and technological communities; workers and trade unions; children and youth; indigenous peoples; farmers and small forest landowners; and non-governmental organizations.

7. At the 9th meeting, on 26 May, statements were made by the high-level representatives of Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union), New Zealand, Malaysia, South Africa, the Russian Federation, India, France, Gabon (on behalf of the Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale), Trinidad and Tobago, Finland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Latvia, Lesotho, Argentina, China, Colombia, Lebanon, Hungary and the Netherlands.

8. Statements were also made by the Chair, Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), as well as by the following representatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests: International Tropical Timber Organization; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and Convention on Biological Diversity, on behalf of the Executive Secretary and United Nations Environment Programme.

9. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; children and youth; workers and trade unions; non-governmental organizations; farmers and small forest landowners; and indigenous peoples.

10. At the 10th meeting, on 26 May, statements were made by high-level representatives of Nigeria, Bolivia, Norway, Zimbabwe, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Poland, Peru, Pakistan, Croatia, Zambia, the United States of America, the Philippines, Switzerland, Japan, Serbia and Montenegro, Italy, Nepal, Sweden, Australia, Canada, Guyana, Cambodia, Chile, Cuba and Honduras (on behalf of Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana).

**High-level round tables**

11. At its 8th meeting, on 25 May, the Forum held two parallel round tables, one on "Restoring the world's forests" and the other on "Forest law and governance for sustainability".

**Round table on restoring the world's forests**

12. The round table on restoring the world's forests was moderated by Elliot Morley, Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom, who made an opening statement.

13. Statements were made by the following keynote speakers: Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Minister for Environment and Energy of Costa Rica; Octavie Modert, Secretary of State for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development of Luxembourg; Zhu Lieke, Vice-Minister, State Forest Administration of China; and Henson Moore, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Forest and Paper Association.

14. Comments were made and questions were posed to the keynote speakers by the following representatives: Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest and Environment of the Congo; Haji Adenan bin Haji Satem, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment of Malaysia; the representatives of Japan, Bangladesh, Peru and Finland and the representative of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

15. A dialogue ensued in which the following representatives participated: Lars Sponheim, Minister of Agriculture and Food of Norway; the representatives of Lebanon and Indonesia; Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest and Environment of the Congo; Antonio Serrano-Rodríguez, Secretary-General for Land and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment of Spain; Mr. Soo-hwa, Deputy Minister, Forest Service of the Republic of Korea; Sally Collins, Associate Chief of the United States Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture; Alberto Cárdenas-Jiménez, Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico; the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Portugal; Professor Francisco Castro Rego, Director-General of Forest Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of Portugal; the representatives of Bangladesh, Japan, and Australia; and Rachel Arungah, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya.

16. The representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations participated in the dialogue: World Conservation Union and the secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Cover Forest Countries.

17. The representatives of the following major groups also participated in the round table: workers and trade unions; and children and youth.

**Round table on forest law and governance for sustainability**

18. The round table on forest law and governance for sustainability was moderated by Judith Bahemuka, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, who made an opening statement.

19. Statements were then made by the keynote speakers M. S. Kaban, Minister of Forestry of Indonesia, and Dr. Michael Ross, Professor, University of California at Los Angeles, California.

20. Presentations were made by the following high-level representatives: Chambrier Barro, Delegate Minister for Forestry Economics, Water, Fishing, the Environment, in charge of the Nature Conservancy of Gabon; Valery Roshchupkin, Head of the Forestry Agency, Ministry for Natural Resources of the Russian Federation; Dr. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; Everton Vargas, Head of the Department on Environment and Special Themes, Ministry of External Relations of Brazil.

21. A dialogue ensued in which the representatives of the following countries participated: Republic of Korea; South Africa; Finland; Latvia; Côte d'Ivoire; China; France; Malaysia; Romania; Switzerland; the Netherlands; the United States of America; Turkey; Guatemala; Japan; Denmark; Kenya; the Philippines; Sweden; Papua New Guinea; Greece; and Mexico.

22. The representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations participated in the dialogue: World Conservation Union (IUCN) and FAO.

23. The representatives of the following major groups also participated in the round table: farmers and small forest landowners; children and youth; non-governmental organizations and Workers and Trade Unions.

## Action taken by the Forum

### Outcome of the high-level segment

24. At the 10th meeting, on 26 May, the Forum had before it the text of a draft ministerial declaration, in English only, which was read out by the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

25. At the same meeting, the Chairman proposed that the Forum adopt the draft declaration.

26. Statements were made by the representatives of Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union), Cuba, Switzerland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norway, Canada, the United States of America and Mexico.

27. The Chairman then proposed to replace the text of the draft declaration with a summary of the high-level segment to be prepared by him.

28. Following statements by the representatives of the United States of America and Canada, the Forum decided to adopt the Chairman's proposal.

29. At the 12th meeting, on 27 May, the Forum had before it the Chairman's summary of the high-level segment.

30. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to annex the summary to the report of the fifth session of the Forum (see annex II).

### Round table on restoring the world's forests

31. At the 12th meeting, on 27 May, the Forum had before it a summary of the round table on restoring the world's forests, submitted by the Chairman.

32. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to annex the summary to the report of the fifth session of the Forum (see annex III).

### Round table on forest law and governance for sustainability

33. At the 12th meeting, on 27 May, the Forum had before it a summary of the round table on forest law and governance for sustainability, submitted by the Chairman.

34. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to annex the summary to the report (see annex IV).

# Chapter IX
## Other matters

1. The Forum did not consider agenda item 10 at its fifth session.

# Chapter X
# Organization of the session

## A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests held its fifth session at United Nations Headquarters on 14 May 2004 and from 16 to 27 May 2005. The Forum held 12 plenary meetings (1st to 12th).

2. The session was opened by the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat.

## B. Attendance

3. The Forum was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and representatives of intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.6/2005/INF/2.

## C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 14 and 16 May, the Forum elected the following officers of its fourth session:

*Chairman*:
Manuel Rodriguez Becerra (Colombia)

*Vice-Chairmen*:
Francis K. Butagira (Uganda)
Adam Craciunescu (Romania)
Denys Gauer (France)
Rezlan Ishar Jenie (Indonesia)

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 May, the Forum elected by acclamation Vasile Lupu (Romania) to replace Adam Craciunescu (Romania) as Vice-Chairman.

6. At the same meeting, it was decided that Rezlan Ishar Jenie (Indonesia) would also serve as Rapporteur.

7. At its 5th meeting, on 17 May, the Forum elected Simeon A. Adekanye (Nigeria) to replace Francis K. Butagira (Uganda) as Vice-Chairman.

## D. Adoption of the agenda

8. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 May, the Forum adopted the following provisional agenda for the session, as orally corrected:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Status of the Forum secretariat.

4. Review of progress and consideration of future actions.

5. Review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, as referred to in paragraph 17 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35.

6. On the basis of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, consideration, with a view to recommending to the Council and through it to the General Assembly, of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests.

7. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination.

8. Multi-stakeholder dialogue.

9. High-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fifth session.

## E. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Forum at its fifth session is contained in annex V.

## F. Establishment of working groups and designation of their chairmen

10. At its 2nd meeting, on 16 May, the Forum established two working groups. On the proposal of the Chairman, agenda items were allocated to the two working groups to be chaired by Vice-Chairs as follows:

(a) *Working Group I*, Rezlan Ishar Jenie (Indonesia) and Vasile Lupu (Romania): items 4-7;

(b) *Working Group II*, Denys Gauer (France) and Simeon A. Adekanye (Nigeria): items 8 and 9.

## G. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

11. Also at its 2nd meeting, on 16 May, the Forum decided to accredit the following two intergovernmental organizations: the Montreal Process and the secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

12. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Guatemala.

13. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization.

## H. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fifth session

14. At its 12th meeting, on 27 May, the Forum had before it a draft resolution submitted by the Chairman entitled "Report of the fifth session of the Forum and draft provisional agenda for the sixth session", which was contained in an informal paper in English only.

15. Following statements by the representatives of Ghana (on behalf of the African Group), Luxembourg, Nigeria, Switzerland, Cuba, the United States of America, Mexico, Brazil, Latvia, Canada, the Russian Federation, Nigeria, Japan, Senegal, Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, South Africa and Benin, the Forum decided to recommend the draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. A).

16. Also at the 12th meeting, on 27 May 2005, the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Forum on its fifth session (E/CN.18/2005/L.1).

17. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft report and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it with the support of the Secretariat.

# Annex I

## Regional realities: Asia-Pacific Day

### Summary submitted by the Chairman of the Forum

1. The moderated panel discussion "Regional Realities: Asia-Pacific Day" was the latest special event in a series of regional presentations started in 2003 at the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to share ideas, perspectives and strategies to promote sustainable forest management. It showcased and affirmed the crucial role of forests and trees in sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Policy recommendations highlighted in the discussion

2. Asia and the Pacific is the world's most populous region. Fifty-five per cent of the world's population lives in the Asia-Pacific region, placing immense pressure on its forests. Panellists discussed: current trends; gaps and challenges for sustainable forest management in the regions such as loss of forest cover, land degradation owing to high population density in forests, illegal logging and other corrupt activities; inappropriate use of forest subsidies; violent conflict in forested areas; unsustainable management plans; and inadequate forest certification efforts. In addition, the panellists shared national experiences on gender-based initiatives to empower women through community-based forest management, establishing coastal forests, the regional cooperation efforts of the Asia Forest Partnership and strategies to alleviate poverty through forest management.

3. Areas that could improve the implementation of sustainable forest management were identified as: valuation and payment for environmental services, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, credible certification schemes with compliance verification, adequate financing, capacity-building, social mobilization strategies, land tenure reform and bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Emphasis was made on the need to formulate an implementation strategy and follow-up action, including an efficient and effective feedback mechanism within and across national, regional and international levels.

4. The meeting concluded that the panel discussion had broadened understanding and demonstrated the potential of subregional and regional approaches in the future work of the international arrangement on forests to address existing challenges and emerging sustainable forest management issues.

# Annex II

## Role of forests in the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit and integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

### Summary submitted by the Chairman of the Forum

1. Forests and trees play a critical role in supporting the livelihoods of people, particularly the world's poor. Forest resources directly contribute to the livelihoods of 90 per cent of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty who depend on forests to enrich their soil, provide nutrition for their livestock and protect their water supply. For these people, forests are a source of food, energy, shelter, medicine, commerce and spiritual well-being. Finding means of managing forests in a more sustainable way is thus crucial for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

2. The plenary session was organized as a policy dialogue between ministers, heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and high-level representatives of major groups. The session was moderated by Ms. Buyelwa Patience Sonjica, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry of South Africa.

#### Policy recommendations highlighted in the discussion

3. Efforts to defeat poverty and pursue sustainable development will be in vain if degradation and natural resource depletion, including loss of forests and illegal activities in the forest sector, continue unabated. Where forests play a critical role in enabling people to cope with poverty, their rights should be safeguarded by providing and securing of tenure and access to wood and non-timber forest products. Furthermore, efforts to tackle these challenges and make strides towards sustainable forests management needs to be strengthened at all levels, including a strong international arrangement on forests.

4. The alarming rate of deforestation continues to warrant international attention and there is a need to renew the pledge to combat deforestation, restoring the forest functions in degraded landscapes and improve the livelihoods of poor people living in and around forests worldwide. Several participants stressed that setting global forest goals in this regard may serve as a catalyst for action at all levels and stimulate countries to set their own target to fulfil this commitment. Furthermore, such common goals could also be conveyed to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, at which heads of State and Government would participate to comprehensively review the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

5. Several delegations stressed the need to increase resource mobilization, both domestically and externally, for sustainable forests management and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Capacity-building, research

and transfer of environmentally sound technologies were also highlighted as priorities in order to make significant progress on the ground

6. Some delegations highlighted that forests are deeply entwined with other sectors of society and their management requires coordinated efforts and intersectoral approaches. National forest programmes provide an excellent framework within which countries can address the opportunities for trees and forests to contribute to broader development objectives.

# Annex III

## Round table on restoring the world's forests

### Summary submitted by the Chairman of the Forum

1. Despite the alarming rate of deforestation, new strategies have been implemented and are emerging to address this critical matter and to further our understanding of the underlying driving forces. To this end, forest restoration, the natural expansion of forest and the establishment of plantation forests have helped, to some extent, in countering degradation of forest ecosystems and to bring environmental, commercial and social benefits to society.

2. The round table was chaired by Mr. Elliot Morley, Minister of State (Climate Change and Environment), Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. The round table provided an opportunity for ministers, heads of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and participants in the high-level major group to discuss ways to secure greater political recognition of the importance of restoring the world's forests and to achieving high-level commitments to restoration, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

**Policy recommendations highlighted in the discussion**

4. Among contributing factors identified by Governments during the discussion to help diminish adverse effect on forests by decisions taken outside the forest sector was the need for closer collaboration with other ministries, including ministries of agriculture and environment, in order to advance sustainable forest management and forest restoration. The future of forests is indeed linked to a good balance within the rural policies of any country.

5. The development of a financial mechanism to assess the value of forest services and benefits and to attract greater interest on forests by decision makers in charge of finance was also underlined as a factor that could stimulate Governments to play a supportive role in forest restoration. Exploring innovative sources of funding could potentially lead to new opportunities for the forest sector, such as increasing the revenue generated from forest resources; promoting forest-related business opportunities and charging for environmental services; stimulating international cooperation; encouraging private sector investment; mobilizing incentives for sustainable forest management practices among small forest landowners, and other stakeholders; promoting private-public partnerships; and using various schemes, such as the clean development mechanism, to finance projects relevant to forests.

6. Formulation and implementation of national forest programmes, with clear targets and expectations, and with the active engagement of stakeholders, including women and youth, could strategically improve forest restoration. This would influence other national development policies and bring greater political attention to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.

7. Recommendations expressed during the round table included, to: focus particularly on regions and countries where the restoration of forests is mostly

needed; support regional activities on forest restoration, through existing processes, such as the criteria and indicator processes and the Tehran Process for low forest cover countries, as well as partnerships such as the Global Partnership on Forest Restoration; urge the Forum and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound forest restoration technology and support capacity-building; urge the Forum to seek ways and means to establish a finance mechanism for forest restoration; and, also urge the Forum to provide information and assistance to countries to establish clear linkages with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the clean development mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

# Annex IV

## Forest law and governance for sustainability

### Summary submitted by the Chairman of the Forum

1. Mrs. Judith Bahemuka, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, moderated a diverse and constructive discussion that recognized the fundamental importance of governance for sustainable forest management and the negative link between conflicts and natural resource conservation. In many countries weak governance is associated with poverty. The sharing of the experience of rich countries identified the numerous actions at international, regional, subregional and national levels as potentially useful tools to strengthen forest law and governance for sustainability.

#### Policy recommendations highlighted in the discussion

2. The need to strengthen national legislation and enforcement was highlighted as a priority area. Regional initiatives, multilateral and bilateral cooperation and agreements also have a significant role to play in strengthening forest law enforcement and governance.

3. Clarification and strengthening of tenure and access rights related to forest lands and use was one of the suggested actions. Decentralization and promotion of partnerships between Governments, forest owners and communities, industry and trade and civil society further contribute to better forest governance.

4. Another indispensable attribute of good governance is transparency of Government contracts and payments related to the use rights of forest resources, as well as of efficient and equitable revenue-sharing schemes.

5. Certification of origin of timber and timber products, chain-of-custody systems and voluntary codes of conduct are important tools in combating illegal practices in forestry. On the other hand, market access to legally and sustainably produced forest products, including public procurement rules need to be enhanced, together with transfer of technology and sharing of experiences. Provision of adequate means of implementation, including capacity-building and technical and financial assistance, are crucial preconditions for strengthening governance systems.

# Annex V

## List of documents

| *Document symbol* | *Agenda item* | *Title or description* |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.18/2005/1 | 2 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| E/CN.18/2005/2 | 6 | Report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Consideration with a View to Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a Legal Framework on All types of Forests |
| E/CN.18/2005/3 and Add 1-8 | 8 | Note by the Secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue |
| E/CN.18/2005/4 | 9 | Note by the Secretary-General on the high-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations |
| E/CN.18/2005/5 | 7 | Note by the Secretariat on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination |
| E/CN.18/2005/6 | 5 | Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests |
| E/CN.18/2005/7 | 9 | Report of the Secretary-General on linkages between forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration |
| E/CN.18/2005/8 | 4 | Report of the Secretary-General on the review of progress and consideration of future actions |
| E/CN.18/2005/9 | 6 | Note by the Secretary-General on consideration of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, with a view to recommending them to the Economic and Social Council and through it to the General Assembly |
| E/CN.18/2005/10 | 9 | Letter dated 15 October 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the workshop co-organized by the Governments of Indonesia and Switzerland on "Decentralization, federal systems in forestry and national forest programmes" |
| E/CN.18/2005/11 | 9 | Letter dated 24 February 2005 from the Chargés d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Missions of Mexico and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Co-Chair's report on the country-led "Initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the Future of the International Arrangement on Forests" |

| *Document symbol* | *Agenda item* | *Title or description* |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.18/2005/12 | 10 | Letter dated 11 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.18/2005/13 | 9 | Note verbale dated 21 April 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the country-led "Initiative on innovative financial mechanisms: searching for viable alternatives to secure the basis for the financial sustainability of forests" |
| E/CN.18/2005/14 | 9 | Note by the Secretariat transmitting the statement from the Ministerial Meeting on Forests convened by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 14 March 2005 in Rome |
| E/CN.18/2005/15 | 9 | Letter dated 2 May 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the country-led "Initiative in Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation" |
| E/CN.18/2005/16 | 9 | Note verbale dated 20 April 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the organizational initiative report on the Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments |
| E/CN.18/2005/17 | 2 | Note by the Secretariat on accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to the United Nations Forum on Forests |
| E/CN.18/2005/L.1 | 11 | Draft report |
| E/CN.18/2005/INF/1 | 7 | Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2005 |

05-39666 (E) 150705

E/2005/42
E/CN.18/2005/18